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It's time we pick up where we last left Moses on 16 November. You will recall, we started a study of the life of Moses on 1 September 2019, saw how his life was planned in eternity for eternity, observed how he was "planted" inside Pharaoh's palace by his daughter, and like many adopted children, wanted to know more about his birth parents and got into trouble by murdering an Egyptian who was going to kill a Hebrew slave, ran away, settled in the western Arabia, and that's where he encountered God in what seemed to be a burning bush.

We also examined how God had to settle the question which remained unresolved in Moses' heart, "who are my parents?". *You may not know your father, but I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.* God reveals Himself as **the God of your father**, making it clear that Moses' identity is framed by his being a descendant of Abraham, to whom God pledged Himself by covenant, not by a biological father whom he does not know.

But issues such as a missing parent in one's life, are not settled easily. The Bible does not offer simple solutions to complex problems; the Bible is a historical narrative of how people with complex personalities, some of which is their own making, **find** a way to resolve their issues through the loving grace, and where needed, the forgiveness of Almighty and Eternal God.

We then examined how Moses argues with God, offering excuses, every time God resolved His doubts and questions! Five times! Until we read **God's anger burned against Moses!**

No one can ever go against the plan of God, for what God wills in His heart to do, He does. Neither does God shirk from His promises!

In the grand narrative of history, God is always in control. Though the children of Israel found themselves in slavery in Egypt, God did not forget His promise to Abraham<sup>1</sup>. At the appointed time, God continues to fulfil His promise by delivering them from slavery in Egypt, taking them toward the land of promise.

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 15:13-16

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Today we want to appreciate this God. Who is He? What's He like? Can you know Him for who He is, because to know Him as any other person, to ascribe character traits which distort His true character, is to engage in idol worship.

Who is this person we call God?

Isn't it fascinating, on the eve of their departure from Egypt, this God does not start by giving Moses his marching orders. We would expect God to tell Moses how to get 5 million people out of Egypt fast, before Pharaoh changes his mind.

He starts with, *This month is to be for you, the first month of the year!* What is about to happen is a new beginning for you! The old is past, and you will have a new start in life!

This is the promise of God to us. The Psalmist sings, *God's justice favours the oppressed and gives them their rights. He revealed his plans to Moses and let the people of Israel see his mighty deeds. ... As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is his love for those who honour him. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove the memory of our sins from us. ... He knows what we are made of; he remembers that we are dust.*<sup>2</sup> Not only does God deliver us from difficulties and oppression, He forgets everything in the past, and focuses on the present and the future!

There is a wonderful anecdote in the February issue of The Grapevine of two frogs who fell into a deep hole. The community of frogs gathered around and watched them jump up to get out of the hole, but failed. The frogs told the two, they should prepare to die; no frog could jump that high, and continued with their discouragement! One of the frogs believed them, stopped trying and died within minutes. The other frog continued to jump and finally succeeded.

The first thing we learn today, is that our God is a God of Deliverance. He does not stand by watching us trying to overcome difficulties in life; nor does he stand by cheering and jeering us as we make furtive attempts to get out of trouble. Our's is a God of Deliverance, one who rescues, liberates, releases, bails us out from every adverse condition in life.

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<sup>2</sup> Psalm 103:6-12, 14

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The main reason many do not experience His deliverance, and therefore, don't know Him as Deliverer, is because we are not sure whether He will. When we approach God, He does not doubt our sincerity, but when God approaches us through His Word, we doubt His! Our problem is worsened when we don't trust Him to do what is right, in His time, according to His plan!

One of the reasons we don't trust God is, we are not sure He will give **US** what **WE** want, which **WE** think is right for **US**.

So, imagine being told to apply the blood of a slaughtered lamb on your doorpost! Yuck! Gross! Touch animal blood? **NEVER!** ... until like Moses, we exhaust our objections and arguments. Did the families of Israel ever think, what they were asked to do was symbolic of what Jesus would do on the cross? That in time to come, the prophet Ezekiel would hear God say to His angels, *"Go through the streets of Jerusalem and put a mark on the forehead of everyone who is in anguish over the outrageous obscenities being done in the city... When the command to destroy is given, don't touch anyone with the mark."*<sup>3</sup>

Did the families of Israel ever think, thousands of years later, in the final days before this earth is replaced by the New Jerusalem, John saw a vision of *a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him a hundred forty-four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.*

Of course these are symbolic, they point to the Truth, those in a deeper relationship with their God, are those whose heart beats in tune with the Father in Heaven, whose concerns are the same as His, and who therefore, can be trusted to do the Father's will here and now!

The one true God, was the God of the Egyptians and the families of Israel. Both were guilty of sin against the One True God. The only way to avoid God's anger against sin, was to have one's door marked by the blood of an unblemished lamb.

Note, it was nor the Lamb nor its blood that saved the people of Israel. **It was their obedience to follow God's direction that saved them. It was their**

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<sup>3</sup> Ezekiel 9:3-6

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## **obedience to God's direction that took them out of slavery and oppression into freedom.**

What they did with their freedom is another story, but today we want to appreciate and praise our God of Deliverance.

It was their faith in God's instruction and direction that led to their deliverance. The miracle of their deliverance was so powerful, its news spread like wildfire, as far as the land they were to settle in, as Rahab would later testify in Jericho.<sup>4</sup>

But it was **NOT** the miracle of their deliverance that led to faith; it may have strengthened their faith, but it started with trusting God. Trusting Him to be the person who declares, ***I am the Lord your God***, who promises, ***I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for... Now take that blood and brush it over the lintel of the entrance door to your home!***

We have just celebrated the purpose of Jesus' life, death **AND** resurrection. We eat bread and drink wine (juice) everyday, but on occasions like this, we are invited to consider these two items as symbols of Jesus' life, death **AND** resurrection, with the question, *Do you believe God knows you and loves you personally, that His Son Jesus died to defeat death through His resurrection, the price of restoring you into your rightful place in God's eternal Kingdom?*

Our God is the God of Deliverance. His Son has done all the work to deliver you safe into the Father's care.

The question is, ***Do you believe this? Do you have the faith to say, "Yes I believe!"***

Because it is this response that opens the door to begin your journey to your Father's home, in the land He has prepared for you!

**AMEN.**

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<sup>4</sup> Joshua 2:10